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Advance of Asian carp blamed on humans

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CHICAGO, Aug. 6 (UPI) -- An invasive Asian carp found upstream of barriers meant to keep the species out of the Great Lakes was put there by someone this summer, officials say.

The discovery of the 20-pound fish in Lake Calumet has renewed calls from neighboring states to close Chicago-area water locks to prevent the predator from reaching Lake Michigan, the Chicago SouthtownStar reported Friday.

State officials say someone -- by accident or design -- put the fish in the lake.



The 35-inch-long fish was "moved or was transported to Lake Calumet or Lake Michigan during the early portion of its life," Jim Garvey of the Fisheries and Illinois Aquaculture Center said.


It "may have been put there by humans, perhaps as a ritual cultural release or through bait bucket transfer," Garvey said.

Environmentalists say how the fish got into the lake isn't the point.

"Wherever this fish started, the reality is it has ended up in the waters of the Great Lakes," said Joel Brammeier, president of the Alliance for the Great Lakes. "It's another indicator that live carp are present in the Chicago waterways and are threatening to get in and invade the Great Lakes."

The massive appetite of the invasive Asian carp poses a threat to native species and the carp could ruin businesses dependent on the Great Lakes, including the \$7 billion recreational fishing industry, the SouthtownStar said.

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